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Knowledge, attitude, and barriers of nursing research among BSc nursing students, in selected nursing college of Malappuram district

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Abstract

Introduction: Nursing research is the systematic pursuit of knowledge involving the understanding and formulation of a problem, the collection of information through observation or any other method. This study aimed to assess the knowledge on nursing research and attitude towards it and also identify the barriers to conduct nursing research. **Objectives:** The objectives of the study were to assess the knowledge and attitude on nursing research among BSc nursing students, to find out the barrier of nursing research among BSc nursing students, and to find out the association between the knowledge and attitude score with selected demographic variables. **Methods:** A descriptive survey approach was used to conduct the study. A purposive sampling method was used to select the samples and study was conducted among 56 nursing students from selected nursing college, in Malapuram. Data were collected by using structured knowledge questionnaire to assess knowledge on nursing research. Rating scale was used to assess attitude and opinion questionnaire to identify the barriers in nursing research. **Results:** Majority of the nursing students (26) 46% had good knowledge, (6) 11% had excellent knowledge on nursing research. With regard to attitude, (32) 57% had neutral attitude, and (24) 43% had favourable attitude towards nursing research. There was no significant association between knowledge and attitude with selected demographic variables ($p>.05$). **Conclusion:** The study concluded that most of the nursing students had good knowledge and favourable attitude on nursing research. Remedies can be taken to overcome the barriers of nursing research.

Key words: Attitude, barriers, knowledge, nursing, research, students

Introduction

Conducting research has been increased tremendously among nursing filed in this scenario. Nursing students has different level of knowledge in area of research and they may have different attitude towards research. The continuous technological advancement in clinical setting is a great challenge in nursing (Martha & Zhu, 2009). This challenge make everyone to adopt to evidence based nursing practice. Scientific evidence is required to perform an Evidence Baced Practice (EBP). Adapting EBP means to incorporate research findings into their clinical practice for the better quatily of healthcare (Polit & Beck, 2015). This problem-solving approach

helps each individual to take clinical evidence wisely in clinical setting (House, Dearholt, Poe, Pugh, & White, 2007). So to get empirical data, conducting research by acquiring new knowledge and also developing good attitude towards research is necessary. Thus, knowledge of nursing research improves the nursing practice of all nurses.

A descriptive study was conducted among nursing students towards research. The study results revealed that majority of the students expressed favourable attitude and supported its benefits 78%. The overall mean score was 68.4 ± 6.580 (Al Furaikh, Al Omairi, & Ganapathy, 2017). This study helps to understand the knowledge and attitude towards research among nursing students.

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Objectives

1. To assess the knowledge and attitude regarding nursing research among BSc nursing students.
2. To find out the barrier of nursing research among BSc nursing students.
3. To find out the association between the knowledge and attitude with selected demographic variables.

Methods and materials

A descriptive survey design was used to conduct the study. Study was conducted among 56 IV year BSc nursing students from selected nursing college, in Malapuram district. Purposive sampling was used to select the subjects. The instruments used were developed by the researcher. The researcher used the following instruments for collecting the data.

Tool 1: Demographic performa was used to collect the information regarding the characteristics of the participants. The items included in the tool were age in years, gender, previous knowledge on nursing research, journal reading habits, frequency of reading nursing journals, need for reading nursing research journals, like to contribute in research project, and if currently part of research.

Part 1: Included structured knowledge questionnaire regarding nursing research. The multiple-choice questionnaire consisted of 20 items which included steps of nursing research and basic statistical methods used in nursing research with four options. Correct response carried one mark and wrong response carried zero mark. Knowledge scores was interpreted as excellent (14-20), good (7-13), and average (1-6).

Part 2: Rating scale to assess attitude towards nursing research was used. This 5-point likert scale consisted of 10 statements on nursing research. Total score was 1 to 50. Attitude score was divided as favourable (33-50), neutral attitude (16-32), and unfavourable attitude (1-15).

Content validity tools were given to five experts from fields of Medical Surgical Nursing, Community Health Nursing, research experts, and department of statistics. Modifications were done based on expert's suggestions. The reliability of knowledge questionnaire was assessed by using split half method. The reliability of the tool was $r=.80$ which was reliable. Cronbach's alpha was used to determine the attitude scale's reliability, $r=.80$ was found reliable.

Procedure for data procedure

Prior to data collection, permission was obtained from the Principal of AL-Shifa College of nursing and Ethical Committee of the institution. The informed consent was obtained from the subjects before data collection. Purpose of the study was explained to the subjects. After collecting the participant's information and demographic data structured knowledge questionnaire, rating scale, and opinion questionnaire on nursing research was given to the subjects to collect the information.

Results

Descriptive statistics was used to find out the frequency and percentage for demographic data. Chi-square test was used to determine the association between knowledge and attitude score on nursing research with demographic variables.

Table 1:

Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Samples Characteristics

	N=56	
Sample characteristics	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Age (in years)		
19	1	0.17
20	28	50
21	19	33.9
22	8	14.2
Gender		
Male	4	7
Female	52	93
Previous knowledge on nursing research		
Yes	49	88
No	7	12
Journal reading habit		
Yes	14	25
No	42	75
Frequency of reading nursing journals		
Once a month	1	2
Once every 3 months	2	4
Even less frequency	28	50
Occasionally	25	45
Need for reading nursing research journals		

Sample characteristics	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Part of curriculum	47	84
No need	1	2
Would you like to contribute to any research project		
Yes	31	55
No	25	45
If currently part of a research project in regular curriculum		
Yes	56	100

With regard to age in years' a majority of 28 (50%) belonged to 21 years. Most of the 52 (93%) were females. Majority i.e. 49 (88%) had previous knowledge on nursing research. Data on journal reading habits show that majority i.e. 14 (25%) had the habit of reading journal with regard to need for reading journals, most of participants' i.e. 47 (84%) had need for reading journal as part of curriculum. Majority i.e. 31 (55%) participants like to contribute to any research project. Students who participated in the study were (100%) having research as subject in their curriculum.

Distribution of subjects based on knowledge on nursing research

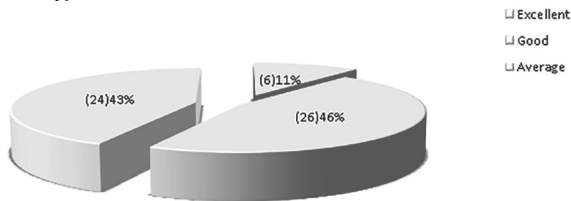


Figure 1: Distribution of subjects based on level of knowledge on nursing research

The Figure 1 presents that majority 26 (46%) of the nursing students had good knowledge on nursing research and 6 (11%) had excellent knowledge and 24 (43%) had average knowledge.

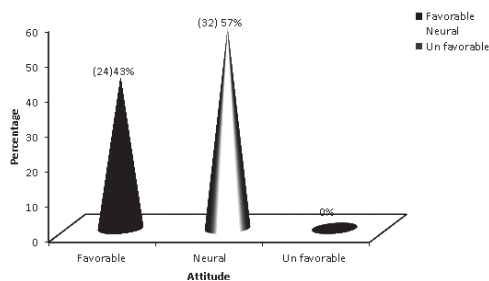


Figure 2: Distribution of samples based on attitude towards nursing research

The Figure 2 presents that (32) 57% and (24) 43% have neutral and favourable attitude towards nursing research, respectively.

Table 2: Frequency and Percentage Distribution of Samples Based on Barriers of Nursing Research

Opinion on barriers of nursing research	Yes		No	
	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
Lack of research allotted time	42	75	14	25
Lack of advanced research training	37	66	19	34
Lack of advanced statistical knowledge	33	59	23	41
Lack of mentorship	32	57	24	43
Lack of available resources	34	61	22	39
Lack of infrastructure	36	64	20	36
Lack of funding	38	68	18	32
Lack of proper guidance	32	57	24	43
Lack of interest	29	52	27	48
Lack of motivation	34	61	22	39
Lack of confidence	25	45	31	55
Lack of awareness EBP in nursing practice	33	59	23	41
Lack of administrative/ Institutional support in various setting	29	52	27	48
Feeling overwhelmed by academic requirement	38	68	18	32
Uncertainty about future benefit	34	61	22	39

The data represented in Table 2 shows that the lack of research allotted time (42) 75% was stated yes and (14) 25% stated no. With regard to lack of statistical

knowledge, (33) 59% expressed yes and (23) 41% expressed no. With regard to lack of mentorship majority, (32) 57% supported yes and only (24) 43% expressed no. With regard to lack of available resources, most of them (34) 61% pointed yes and (22) 39% stated no. With regard to lack of infrastructure, (36) 64% expressed yes and (20) 36% stated no. With regard to lack of funding, (38) 68% and (18) 32% stated yes and no respectively.

With regard to proper guidance, most of the samples (32) 55% were pointed yes and (24) 43% expressed no. With regard to lack of interest, most of the samples expressed yes (29) 52% and (27) 48% expressed no. With regard to lack of motivation, (34) 61% stated yes and (22) 39% stated no. With regard to lack of confidence, most of them (25) 45% pointed yes and (22) 39% expressed no. With regard to lack of EBP in nursing, (33) 59% and (27) 41% stated yes and no respectively. With regard to lack of administration/institutional support, 52% (29) and 48% (27) pointed yes and no respectively. With regard to overwhelmed by the academic requirement, majority 68% (38) expressed yes and 32% (18) stated no. With regard to uncertainty about future, 61% (34) pointed yes and 39% (22) pointed no.

Association between knowledge score with demographic variables

Table 3: Association Between Knowledge Score with Demographic Variables

N=56			
Variables	Chi-square value	df	p value
Age in years			
19			
20	4	6	.676
21			
22			
Gender			
Male	0.45	2	.796
Female			
Previous knowledge			
Yes	0.98	2	.611
No			
Journal reading habits			

Variables	Chi-square value	df	p value
Yes	2.42	2	.298
No			
Frequency of reading nursing journals			
Once a month			
Once every 3 months	5.43	6	.49
Even less frequency			
Occasionally			
Need for reading nursing journal			
Out of interest	4.45	4	.349
Part of curriculum			
No need			
Like to contribute to any research project			
Yes	0.481	2	.481
No			
Current part of research project			
Yes	1.29	2	.524
No			

*Significant at $p < .05$

No statistically significant association was found between knowledge score with selected demographic variables such as age, gender, previous knowledge on nursing research, journal reading habits, frequency of reading nursing research journals, need for reading nursing research journal, like to contribute in research project, and if currently part of research project in nursing curriculum.

Association between levels of attitude towards nursing research with selected demographic variables

Table 4: Association of Level of Attitude with Selected Demographic Variables

N=56			
Variables	Chi-square value	df	p value
Age in years			
19			
20	5.14	3	.162
21			
22			

Variables	Chi-square value	df	p value
Gender			
Male	1.61	1	.205
Female			
Previous knowledge			
Yes	1.06	1	.301
No			
Journal reading habits			
Yes	0.22	1	.638
No			
Frequency of reading nursing journal			
Once a month			
Once every 3 months	1.34	3	.72
Even less frequency			
Occasionally			
Need for reading nursing journal			
Out of interest	0.96	2	.616
Part of curriculum			
No need			
Like to contribute to any research project			
Yes	0.16	1	.689
No			
Current part of research project			
Yes	0.04	1	.835
No			

*Significant at $p < .05$

No statistically significant association was found between the levels of attitude with demographic variables.

Discussion

Nursing research improves our knowledge and helps to acquire new ideas thereby identifying better evidence

for clinical practices (Keele, 2011). Evidence Nursing Practice (ENP) will help the professional nurse to acquire more knowledge and find out best available resources to plan the better outcome (Macnee L & McCabe, 2008).

The present study findings show that the majority of the samples (26) 46% had good knowledge and (24) 43% had average knowledge and (6) 11% had excellent knowledge on nursing research. With regard to attitude, majority (32) 57% had neutral attitude and (24) 43% had favourable attitude towards nursing research. There is no statistical association of knowledge score with demographic variables; also, there is no statistical association of attitude score with demographic variables. The study was conducted on research training program for point of care clinicians promote EBP in clinician care. The objective of the study was to find out the effect of research training program on EBP by assessing clinician's knowledge, attitudes, and practices. Total about 27 teams with 153 clinicians had undergone training for two years (2011-2013). Knowledge attitude and practice instruments were used to collect research activities which encounter during clinical practice by the health professionals. The study results revealed that a significant improvement was found from 1.67 at baseline to 1.93. Linear mixed model was used to calculate mean score between two surveys which was 0.23 and 0.14-0.33 was statistically significant 95% confidence interval (CI) ($p < .0001$). With regard to participants perceived ability, mean score 1.99 on second survey was considerably improved in third survey which measured 2.30. The research study concluded that providing knowledge, skill, and resources will empower clinicians to face the challenges in clinical issues and bridge the traditional gap between knowledge and clinical practice (Black, Balneaves, Garossino, Puyat, & Qian, 2015).

Conclusion

The present study concluded that majority of the subjects had good (26) 46% level of knowledge and (24) 43% had favourable attitude. Nurses have potentially important role to identify the barriers for conducting nursing research. Educational programs on nursing research will help them to overcome the barriers.

Limitations

The study is limited to nursing students studying in selected nursing college of Malapuram. The descriptive

data regarding knowledge and attitude and opinion towards barriers of nursing research was collected. The study finding was limited to small sample size.

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